



U.S. Department of Justice

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FORRESTON MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and KENNETH T. LAAG, Postal Inspector-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the United States Postal Service, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **MATTHEW W. WHITED**, 40 (DOB: 3/8/1966), 607 S. Garden St., Forreston, Illinois, to 25 years in federal prison for using a computer to distribute and possess child pornography. In addition, Whited has been sentenced to 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison, and ordered to pay a fine of \$250.00.

Whited was indicted on June 21, 2005 and charged with transporting images of child pornography via the internet on September 15, 2003 and July 4, 2004; receiving a video on July 29, 2004 which depicted child pornography; and possessing images, computer files and videos on July 29, 2004, of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Whited pled guilty on July 21, 2006, during jury selection for his trial federal court in Rockford, to three federal charges of transporting, possessing and receiving child pornography which had traveled across state lines. At the time of his plea, the government stated that the charges originally arose from an undercover Internet operation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service in St. Louis, Mo. As a result of Whited's contacts with the undercover operation, he ordered a video of child pornography for delivery by mail to his home in Forreston. When the video was delivered to Whited at his home on July 29, 2004, the agents conducted a search of Whited's home. Approximately 1100 images of child pornography were recovered from various areas in Whited's home, including printed images and images stored on a computer and on multiple CDs. On Monday, July 24, 2006, Whited was taken into custody to await his sentencing hearing.

The case was investigated by the Chicago office of the United States Postal Service, assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Ogle County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael D. Love.

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